



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Don Feith
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

CANADIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR TELEMARKETING FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Project Colt Inspector Saverio Orlando today announced that Kerwin Bentley, age 33, of Montreal, and Norman Redler, age 52, were sentenced to federal prison for engaging in a telemarketing scheme originating in Canada that targeted United States citizens. Bentley was ordered to serve 30 months and Redler was ordered to serve 120 months. The defendants will also serve a three year period of supervised release after they are released from prison. During the supervised release period, their behavior will be monitored by the United States Probation Office and they are prohibited from engaging in telemarketing.

More than 80 elderly victims from all over the United States, including several from New Hampshire, were affected by the fraud. Intended losses from the fraud exceeded \$8 million dollars and \$6.4 million in restitution was ordered. Fourteen residents of Canada were indicted in this scheme. Three defendants have already been sentenced. Two defendants have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Five defendants are still in extradition procedures, and two are fugitives.

United States Attorney Colantuono stated: "Telemarketing fraud is a serious crime that warrants the best efforts of law enforcement. The telemarketers that created this fraud were professionals that were able to overcome the natural skepticism of their victims. Although this office is dedicated to finding and prosecuting these fraudsters, the best way to prevent fraud is to not allow yourself to be a victim. Ask yourself: Is this too good to be true? If the answer is yes, then just hang up the phone."

In June 2002, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Surete du Quebec, the Canadian Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Customs Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service, working jointly to combat telemarketing fraud through an effort known as Project Colt, brought the investigation to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire. Those law enforcement agencies and Assistant U.S. Attorney Don Feith prosecuted this case.